

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 SAM-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 MC-02

SAB-01 DRC-01 OMB-01 /160 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1730

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, FR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: FRENCH ATTITUDE

SUMMARY: FRENCH POLICY TOWARD CYPRUS PROBLEM IS MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO PRESERVE GREEK DEMOCRATIC REGIME. THIS ATTITUDE APPEARS PRAGMATIC AND NOT AIMED AT REPLACING U.S. INFLUENCE IN ATHENS. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY OFFICER, WHO IS CONTINUING GENERAL EX- CHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH GOF REGARDING CYPRUS (INCLUDING SIX POINTS IN U.S. AUGUST 19 STATEMENT), DISCUSSED FRENCH ATTITUDES WITH QUAI ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHERN EUROPE REUILLARD AUGUST 22. REUILLARD EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS JUST AS MISLEADING TO DEFINE FRANCE AS FULLY BACKING GREECE AS IT WAS TO ACCUSE USG OF SUPPORTING ONLY TURKEY. HE SHOWED UNDERSTANDING OF AND APPRECIATION FOR USG POSITIONS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD UNDERSTAND PARIS VIEWPOINT; HE STRESSED THAT GOF HAS NOT INSPIRED ANTI-U.S. FRENCH PRESS COMMENTARIES, WHICH HE DEPLORED.

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2. REUILLARD PUT FRENCH POLICY ON CYPRUS IN FRAMEWORK OF CENTRAL GOF CONCERN FOR GREEK RETURN TO DEMOCRACY. AFTER REVIEWING CURRENT POLITICAL FACTORS IN ATHENS, REUILLARD CONCLUDED THAT KARAMANLIS' LIBERAL GOVERNMENT IS FRAGILE AND MIGHT BE REPLACED BY REGIME LESS FAVORABLE TO THE WEST. HE CONCLUDED THAT FRANCE FEELS CALLED UPON TO ASSIST GOG WITH SUCH DIPLOMATIC AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE AND NOT COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

3. HE CITED FRENCH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' STATEMENT OF AUGUST 21 AS EXEMPLIFYING DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FOR ATHENS. HE NOTED THAT GOF SPOKESMAN HAD EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS. REUILLARD INTERPRETED THIS AS GENTLE BUT FIRM PRESSURE ON ATHENS TO OVERCOME ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE. HE ALSO SAID GOF WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE TURKS, ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE THEM THAT THEY MUST BE MAGNANIMOUS IN MOMENT OF VICTORY AND MUST SEE CONTINUATION OF GREEK DEMOCRACY AS BEING TO TURKEY'S NET ADVANTAGE.

4. REUILLARD FLATLY DENIED PRESS REPORTS THAT FRANCE IS SPEEDING UP DELIVERY OF TANKS AND PLANES FOR GREECE. HE SAID THIS CANARD WAS AS ILL-FOUNDED AS ALLEGATIONS IN VARIOUS EUROPEAN MEDIA CONNECTING USG WITH ANTI-MAKARIOS PLOT. HE SAID ARMS CONTRACT CALLED FOR DELIVERY OF TANKS AT END OF THIS YEAR AND OF MIRAGE PLANES IN 1975; THESE TERMS, ORIGINALLY AGREED WITH COLONELS REGIME, REMAIN UNCHANGED. FINALLY, REUILLARD DISCOUNTED SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY PRIVATE CONVERSATION PRESIDENT GISCARD MIGHT HAVE HAD WITH SPECIAL EMISSARY OF KARAMANLIS WHO DELIVERED PRESENT TO ELYSEE FROM GREEK PRIME MINISTER AUGUST 14 IN APPRECIATION OF GISCARD PROVIDING PLANE FOR PM'S RETURN TO ATHENS LAST MONTH.

5. COMMENT: FRENCH CERTAINLY HAVE SENTIMENTAL ATTACHMENT WITH PRESENT GREEK GOVERNMENT, RESULTING INTER ALIA FROM CIRCUMSTANCES OF KARAMANLIS' SOJOURN

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IN FRANCE AND RETURN TO ATHENS. GISCARD HAS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED FOREIGN POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR "LIBERAL" REGIMES. ALSO, FRENCH BELIEVE ANKARA LITERALLY WENT TOO FAR IN CYPRUS. EMBASSY DOUBTS, HOWEVER, THAT FRENCH SERIOUSLY SEE THEMSELVES AS REPLACING AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN ATHENS. GISCARD FOREIGN POLICY ATTITUDES ARE FAR MORE REALISTIC THAN THAT. GOF IS UNLIKELY TO PURSUE POLICIES

SUCH AS DE GAULLE MIGHT HAVE FAVORED, SEEKING TO
ENHANCE FRENCH GRANDEUR RATHER THAN TO SOLVE
INTERNATIONAL CRISES.
STONE

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